

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.
The report of the Secretary of the Interior states that during the last fiscal year 7,041 acres of public land were disposed of, and 421,800 more acres than were disposed of in the previous year. The cash receipts for sales and fees amounted to \$1,257,862.

Mr. Browning expresses his opinion that the pension act of July 14, 1902, is the most comprehensive and munificent ever made by any Government for similar purposes. His administration, however, has shown the necessity of amending it in several particular places, and recommends for such amendment as accordingly made.

In regard to Indian affairs, the Commissioner is in favor of getting the different tribes located upon reservations which may be contiguous

Wild tribes must be located at some distance from each other, and they must be gradually won to their present barbarous customs to the habits of civilized life. To complete the removal of the various Indian tribes to properly located reservations, the Commissioner recommends the appointment of two Commissions, each consisting of not less than three persons. He says that if the title of the money expended during the last year in military operations against the Indians is honestly and judiciously applied to purposes of this kind, the necessity of resort to war would have been avoided. An increase of the salaries of Indian superintendents and agents is recommended, as the best means of securing honest and faithful men for the occupancy of these important places.

During the year ending September 30, 1898, there were 16,547 applications for patents, a record. The total receipts of the patent commission were \$611,910, and the expenses \$555,569. The entire balance in Treasury to the credit of the patent fund now \$286,607.

The whole expenses connected with the holding of United States Courts during the year, and the payment of the various offices connected with the same amount to \$1,085,626.

THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

The acting of Commissioner of Agriculture John W. Stokes, makes several suggestions in his report. He urgently advises the rescinding of the cotton tax, inasmuch as it is "disastrous and disheartening in the extreme." The cattle plague or rinderpest has

He deprecates the introduction of Coolies for cotton production. "Such labor," he says, "is unskilled and far inferior to native labor, and will add to the complications produced by the jealousies and prejudices of races differing in character, taste and traditions."

The wool-growing interest, he tells us, involving a capital of hundreds of millions underlies the prosperity of American agriculture in a degree scarcely appreciated. The farmer, he says, has been saved from threatened annihilation, by the action of Coolies in the East, upon the foreign market equivalent of the internal taxation exacted by the wool-growers.

THE AMERICAN JUSTIFIER, is the title of a new weekly journal just started in Salem, Mr. Charles W. Felt, the inventor of the typographical justifier, the inventor of the typographical justifying machine. Mr. Felt's paper is an excellent one, and if it is a fair indication of the adaptation of his invention to the purpose intended, the latter is a complete success.

Varieties.

—A resident in Pere la Chaise, Paris, ordered, previous to his death, that a copy of *Le Patrie* should be placed on his tombstone every morning. This eccentric request is daily carried out, and there on the grave can be seen

—An Alabama paper announced that would keep silent in regard to a "certain li affair," if a bottle of champagne were sent the office. The editor received seven toll from seven different parties.

—Walt Whitman says in his article on democracy in the Galaxy, that such a painful hullabaloo and vituperative cat-squing as Carlyle's "Niagara Leap," he never encountered in the extremest hour of n night, in whooping Tennessee revival, or B lot, let loose in crowded, colored char-

—A Lowell (Mass.) widower, just married for the third time, has had thirty-one children previous to the new arrangement.

—Dr. Tyng says he hasn't written a sermon since he was a boy. Some one asked him how he became so excellent, an extemporaneous preacher. "By ruining half a dozen parsons in the attempt," was the witty reply.

—So use your own as not to injure your neighbors, is a true rule of law. So to conduct in public assemblies as not to annoy your neighbors, is the first duty of every one.

—"Hans, where you get that knife?" finds him, farder. "No, Hans, I believe I

tells one of his. "No, farder, dat is true. He is de luckiest boy you never see." "Hans, I has to vif you." "Not cause I stealer farder?" "No, Hans, I vips you cause you very lucky."

—A John Bull, conversing with a Canadian Indian, asked him if he knew that the "never sets on the Queen's dominion?" "The said the Indian, "Do you not know the son why?" asked John. "Because Heaven is afraid to trust an Englishman in the darkness was the savage's reply.

—The N. Y. World, speaking of Western walk, says: "Eager as had been the curiosity of the other towns to see and applaud the young man, still, he had asked

—At a recent meet in England a large number of gentlemen followed the hounds, and several of them were injured. One of the damaged persons was a clergyman, and the others were baronets. The injuries range from severe contusions to broken legs.

—A large balloon ascended from near the Paris Exhibition on the night when the meteor was seen, and the people who went in reported that as they were passing over Cologne a number of magnificent aerolites were

—At Lexington, the United States flag which had been raised over the Agricultural College of the Kentucky University was torn down one night last week, and afterwards found on the street with the following brazen notice pinned to the helpless bunting:

No negro bureau flag shall float over the Agricultural College while I am a student of the same. A Lover of Right

The poor fool did not know, evidently, that his College was the special gift of Uncle Sam to Kentucky; and that he, consequently, was an eleemosynary beneficiary of the very stars and stripes which he attempted to dishonor. Nasby will have to plume his wings for

higher flight than he has yet attempted, before he can do full justice to the "Confederate Roads, which is in the State of Kentucky."

—An Iowa paper is credited with qualifying an obituary notice of Fitz Greene Halleck saying that though he was a fine poet, he was no great shakes of a military man.

—Mr. W. D. Howells, in his recent volume "Italian Journeys," in describing some religious ceremonial at Rome, thus touches on the minor features of what is in itself all of monstrous anachronism: "The guard kept good order in the chapel, and were no doubt useful and genuine as anything about the pope of old Pope. What gorgeous fellows they were

and, as soldiers, how absurd! The weapons they bore were as obsolete as the excommunication. It was amusing to pass one of these play soldiers on guard at the door of the Vatican—tall, straight, beautiful, superb, with his halberd on his shoulder—and then come to a real warrior outside, a little ugly, red-legged French sentinel, with his Minie on his arm.

—At Liege, on the Meuse, there has just been erected a gigantic statue of Charlemagne that weighs nine or ten thousand kilograms, and is five metres high. It rests up on a pedestal 7.50 metres in height. It has been noticed (by Figeat) that a statue of this solidity should be a rather burdensome glory to be supported by a town of Liege (cork).

—A Canadian of French extraction came over to visit the Exhibition in Paris, and was hospitably, as a relative, received into a French family for a month. He one night he entered the bedroom of his host, picked a lock with consummate address, and abstracted securities payable to the bearer worth 55,000*fr.*, with the coupons attached. After the act he retired to rest, and in the morning took leave, left Paris by the railway, and reached Liverpool, where he addressed a note to this effect to his victim: "It is I who have taken your securities—your diamonds, jewels and plate. But it is my robbery; it is a forced loan. With its produce I shall do a great business in Canada. If

—A man in Indianapolis, Ind., has bet that he can walk on his hands from the bridge to the Lunatic Asylum. He had better start there if he succeeds.

